

EPI Update for Friday, July 3, 2009
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **July is National Fireworks Safety Month**
- **Heat it up - safe food cooking temperatures**
- **Reinstatement of Hib booster dose**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

July is National Fireworks Safety Month

Enjoy celebrating the heritage of our great country with fireworks, but BE SAFE! The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges consumers to follow these important safety tips:

- . Only use fireworks outdoors.
- . Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- . Children under age 16 should only use fireworks with ADULT SUPERVISION.
- . Always have a bucket of water or water hose nearby.
- . Alcohol and fireworks do not mix!
- . Parents should pay special attention to children using sparklers. Sparklers reach temperatures up to 1800 degrees F. Children should not touch the lit portion of sparklers, throw them, or play games with them.

For more information, visit the National Council on Fireworks Safety Web site at www.fireworksafety.com/home.htm.

Heat it up - safe food cooking temperatures

Whether you're grilling, cooking meat on the stove, in the oven, or microwave, it is essential to remember to cook meat to a high enough internal temperature to kill harmful microbes that cause illness. Use a food thermometer to gauge internal temperature. Here are a few of the most common cooking temperatures:

- . Poultry - 165°
- . Beef, pork, veal, ham, and lamb - 160°
- . Eggs - until yolk and white are firm
- . Shrimp, lobster, and crabs - until flesh is pearly and opaque
- . Leftovers and casseroles - 165°

For more information visit the Partnership for Food Safety Education at www.fightbac.org/.

Recommendations: reinstatement of Hib booster dose

On December 13, 2007, certain lots of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine (Merck's Pedvax HIB-monovalent Hib vaccine and Comvax Hib-HepB vaccine), were recalled voluntarily and production of these vaccines was suspended. To conserve the limited supply of Hib-containing vaccines, health

care providers were asked to temporarily defer the routine Hib vaccine booster dose (given to children at 12 to 15 months).

Two other Hib vaccines have been available for use in the United States during this shortage (Sanofi Pasteur's monovalent Hib [ActHIB] and DTaP-IPV/Hib [Pentacel] vaccines). In July 2009, the number of doses of these two products will increase sufficiently to reinstate the Hib vaccine booster dose.

Effective immediately, the booster dose of Hib vaccine for children aged 12 through 15 months, who have completed the primary 3-dose series, has been reinstated.

- . Infants should continue to receive the primary Hib vaccine series at ages 2, 4 and 6 months.
- . Children aged 12 through 15 months should receive the booster dose on time.
- . Older children for whom the booster dose was deferred should receive their Hib booster dose at the next routinely scheduled visit or medical encounter.
- . Although supply is sufficient to reinstate the booster dose and begin catch-up vaccination, supply is not yet ample enough to support a mass notification process to contact all children with deferred Hib booster doses.

During the Hib shortage, children may have received various permutations of available combination vaccines (e.g., DTaP-IPV/Hib [Pentacel] and DTaP-IPV-HepB [Pediarix]) and monovalent vaccines (e.g., ActHib, HepB, and IPV). Therefore, a mismatch might exist between patient vaccination needs and the available stock of different vaccine formulations (e.g., combination products versus single-antigen vaccines) in local provider offices.

This situation may now present a challenge for providers. For example, if a provider is using DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel) vaccine to protect infants against Hib disease, the provider should ensure that adequate stock of monovalent HepB vaccine is available to complete the HepB vaccine series.

Children who need the Hib booster and who already have received 4 doses of DTaP should receive monovalent Hib vaccine (ActHIB) as their Hib booster dose. However, if DTaP-IPV/Hib is the only Hib-containing vaccine available, this combination product can be used to complete the series of Hib vaccination, even if the child already has received all the necessary doses of DTaP and IPV.

The Immunization program will continue to monitor and contact providers regarding vaccine orders to assure there is Hib containing vaccine available for all VFC Providers, and appreciates your assistance in working through this situation. Providers who have questions regarding the Hib vaccine supply and reinstatement of the booster dose should contact the Immunization program at

800-831-6293. For more information visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/immunization/hib_booster_reinstatement.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy, happy, and safe Fourth of July weekend!

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